

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1264

H. P. 918

House of Representatives, March 2, 1971

Referred to Committee on Public Utilities. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Marstaller of Freeport.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

AN ACT Relating to Public Utility Transmission Lines.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

R. S., T. 35, § 2306, amended. The last paragraph of section 2306 of Title 35 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by section 2 of chapter 262 of the public laws of 1967, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

Any acquisition of lands and easements for location of such transmission lines, whether to be acquired by purchase or taken by eminent domain shall be approved by the Public Utilities Commission. Prior to such purchase or taking, the commission shall hold a public hearing, adequate notice of which shall be given to the owners of any lands involved, to abutting owners and to the public. A map showing the proposed location and route of such transmission line, and a description of any planned equipment and facilities to be placed therein shall be available to the public at the offices of the commission for at least 14 days before such hearing.

At such hearing the commission shall receive testimony regarding the necessity of the proposed transmission line, its location, character and impact on the environment.

A corporation proposing acquisition of land for such transmission line shall have the burden of showing that the public exigencies require its installation and that there is no alternative to the proposed location and character of such transmission line which will lessen its impact on the environment without unreasonably increasing its cost.

The commission may approve or disapprove all or portions of such proposed transmission line, and shall make such orders regarding its location,

character, size, width installation, maintenance and appearance as will lessen its impact on the environment, having regard for any increased costs thereby caused.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Certain public utility companies have the power to acquire lands for transmission lines by eminent domain. Present law contains no restrictions regarding their width, character, appearance or maintenance, yet their location "shall be approved by the Public Utilities Commission." This bill would give responsibility to the Public Utilities Commission to scrutinize the necessity for, and the location, character and appearance of a proposed transmission line for the purpose of lessening any harmful effects it might have on the environment.